

Remarks

Claims 1-27 were pending in this application. Claims 9, 10, 13, 15, 24, 26, and 27 are cancelled herein without prejudice to pursuit of similar claims in one or more continuing applications. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 12, 14, 16-23, and 25 are currently amended. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-8, 11, 12, 14, 16-23, and 25 are pending and under active consideration.

Claim 1 has been amended to add the step of isolating one or more cross reactive T cells by cloning or direct expansion. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the specification, notably at paragraph [0054]. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to add the step of comparing the number of cross-reactive T cells and optionally other autoreactive T cells to a control. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the specification, notably at paragraphs [0066] and [0067]. The limitations of cancelled claims 13 and 15 have been imported into claims 12 and 14, respectively. Claims 1, 2, 7, 16-18, and 22 have been amended to delete the phrase “fragment, variant, analog, homolog or derivative thereof.”

Several claims have been amended for dependency: Claims 3, 4, 8, and 23 have been amended to delete multiple dependencies. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 1; claims 19 and 20 have been amended to depend from claim 18; claims 21 and 22 have been amended to depend from claim 16; and claim 25 has been amended to depend from claim 6.

Minor grammatical amendments necessitated by the foregoing as well as for clarity have also been made.

Because the amendments are supported by the application as originally filed, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and remarks made herein into the file history of the present application.

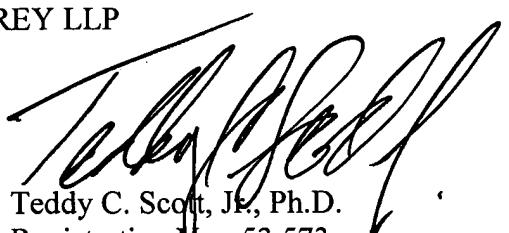
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in good and proper order for allowance and early notification to this effect is solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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